

Mein Prayer

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Word Count 993

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“Yahweh, why do you create people filled with hate? Where are they taking us? I do not ask much from you, but please let me and my family live, let us survive.”

“Adonai, they are separating us. I am in one line, my family in another. Why? Oh, please, please let them be safe. Let them live.”

“Elyon, they are dead. They are gone. I asked you to protect them! Why did you fail me? I am now alone. Why did you let me live?”

“Adonai, the world has shattered. I live in a world where we are judged by our thoughts and beliefs and are punished for them. But, take my clothes, take my hair, take my family, they will not take my hope. It is all I have left. Give me strength to keep my hope alive.”

“Oh, Yahweh, it is so cold...so very cold. They do not give us clothes fit for animals, let alone humans. But, that is how they see us, lower than animals. They sneer at our suffering. They say we are dirt, not worthy enough to be under their boots. I hate them, I hate them all.”

“El Shaddai, the food they give us! I cannot bear to eat any more. My skin is choking my bones. I worry that one day my skin will break like a snapped rubber band and my bones will show through. The soldiers shout insults at me all the time like “Jew” or “pig”. Oh, El Shaddai, why do I not hear YOU instead? Why do you not speak to me?”

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“Adonai? Adonai? ANSWER ME, ADONAI! Save me from these people, these murderers.

Why are you allowing them to torture us! You delivered the slaves from pharaoh, why not us?

Are you that unmerciful? You watch your people being murdered, yet do nothing to save them?

Why? ..... Are you even there?””

“Yahweh, it has been a while since I have prayed to you, and for that I am sorry. I just needed to be alone. Today is the first day of Hanukkah. I know we are not allowed to celebrate it here, but you gave me courage to ask a soldier for one candle to light---he hit me. I was despairing when a man came up to me. He looked so kind, I was not afraid of him. He told me, “They may put chains on your hands and feet, but they shall never put chains on your heart and mind.” You did not send a savior to free me, but you did send someone to remind me that I have my mind, and there I am always free. My hope is alive again. Thank you.”

“El Shaddai, something happened today, something I do not understand. The barrack was too crowded, so I did not go in. I was leaning against the door, when a soldier came up to me. I was afraid until he spoke in a surprisingly soft voice. He whispered, “That was very brave of you to ask a soldier for a candle. I wish I had your bravery.” Then I felt him press something soft in my hand. When I looked down, I saw it was a piece of bread. I have not seen bread in months! When I looked up, he was gone. Could it be possible that there are angels among demons? Could there be doves among ravens? Is it possible that not all of them are evil? I take back what I said. I do not hate them all. I cannot let hate fill my soul or else I am no better than they are.”

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“Yahweh, I feel strange. I feel different. I was sleeping in my barrack when I heard a sound in the corner of the room. It was a girl my age, crying. I asked her what she was doing, and she told me that all her family was dead so she was planning on running during apell the next morning. I told her she would be killed before she even got near the gate, and she said that was exactly why she was doing it. She wanted to kill herself so her pain would end. I asked her why she would do such a thing, and she said, “I will see my family. I want my freedom.” I did not know what came over me, but I took her hands and said, “They may put chains on your hands and feet, but they shall never put chains on your heart and mind!” My words seemed to reach her, even though she said she still missed her family. I told her I missed my family too, but we must stay alive. “We must fight! We must not let them take our hope, or they shall win!” She looked in my eyes for a long time then returned to bed. Now I know why you sent that man with those words---why you saved me. I was supposed to save her.”

“Oh, Elyon, she never ran today. She stayed. Thank you. I--- ..... Why are people shouting?”

“The war is over, Adonai! You DID send us deliverers, and they have ended the war. No one speaks of running now. We all sense our freedom is near. I feel the chains on my body and mouth are breaking. Oh, El Shaddai, please let our saviors come to us soon.”

“Oh, Yahweh, the day has finally come. The Russians came today, and I am finally free! I am sad my family is dead, but I am going to cousins in America to live with them. I realize now that I DID have someone to save me from this hell---You. And, in turn, You taught me I can save

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others. YOU kept my hope alive. Help me to take it into the world so others will see that there are no chains on a heart and mind. I love you...”

“Amen.”